

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for selectively generating automatic notifications that a user is away sending a notice that a user is away, the method comprising:

responsive to receiving an email message at an email address of the user, determining whether an e-mail address of the sender of the email message is an email address in a set of determined email addresses comprising determining email addresses of recipients to which email messages have been previously sent within a configurable time period to form a set of determined email addresses; wherein the configurable time period that is uniquely associated with each email address in the set of determined email addresses, set by the user; wherein the set of determined email addresses and a date associated with each email address is the set of determined email addresses is stored in a data structure, and wherein the date associated with each email address in the set of determined email addresses is a date an email message was sent to the associated email address from the email address of the user;

responsive to the user sending an email message to a recipient, storing an email address for the recipient and a date of the email message in the set of determined email addresses, wherein email addresses stored in the set of determined email addresses are removable by the user;

automatically removing the email address for the recipient from the set of determined email addresses if the date of the email message is older than a selected period of time, wherein the selected period of time is set by the user, and wherein the selected period of time is configurable to be the same or different for each stored email address stored in the set of determined email addresses;

responsive to receiving an email message having a same email address within the set of determined email addresses, replying with a notification that the user is away, wherein the notification that the user is away is customizable by the user.

responsive to a determination that the email address of the sender is an email address in the set of determined email addresses, sending an away notification to the email address of the sender; and

responsive to a determination that the email address of the sender is not an email address in the list of determined email addresses, not sending an away notification to the email address of the sender.

2.-14. (Canceled)